

# GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

FRANCISCO GUERRERO

## **Two Pieces**

Ave Virgo sanctissima  
Dezidme, fuente clara

**Tr Tr T T B**

GMC105  
A Gamba Music Club publication  
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## **Francisco Guerrero**

**(b. Seville, May 1527; d. Seville, 8 Nov 1599)**

Guerrero sang alto in the cathedral choir at Seville in 1542 under Fernández de Castilleja and undoubtedly learned a great deal from this 'master of the Spanish masters'. He was appointed to direct music at Jaén cathedral in 1545, but three years later he accepted the post of cantor at Seville for less money. In 1551 he applied for the post of *maestro de capilla* at Málaga, but Seville were unwilling to lose him so they gave him the post of director of the choir-school while Fernández was placed on half pay. Morales took the post at Málaga. Three years later Morales died and Guerrero successfully applied for the post, however he did not take up his duties, but remained in Seville.

In 1574 Fernández died so Guerrero became *maestro de capilla*, but his first action was to apply for leave of absence and go to Rome where he contributed to Soto de Langa's 'Secondo libro de laudi spirituali'. The Chapter of Seville shown him a degree of generosity, but he was placed on half-pay in 1586. In 1588 he visited the Holy Land which had been a lifelong desire and wrote an account of his travels ('El viaje de Jerusalem que hizo Francisco Guerrero racionero y maestro de capilla de la santa iglesia de Sevilla') which was re-printed 10 times on the 17th and 18th centuries.

Guerrero's style is considered less intense than his compatriots, Victoria and Morales, being lyrical and suave. He published a variety of works which included 4 books of motets of which 'Ave Virgo sanctissima' is an example. In 1589 he published 'Canciones y villanesca' - this pastoral madrigal is one - and some consider that his secular work of *canciones* and *villanesca* show him as a more interesting composer.